

# **What is a Poll Worker and How do I become One?**

The Lake County Board of Elections is looking for individuals who can devote a day to help their community support Democracy by helping conduct the Election. A poll worker is also referred to as a Judge or Presiding Judge.

## **Why am I needed?**

Without Presiding Judges and Judges, elections cannot be held. Presiding Judges and Judges help make sure that an election is fair and impartial according to the Election laws of the State of Ohio.

## **Am I Eligible? Yes, if you are....**

- A registered voter in Lake County.
- Enjoy working with people.
- Willing to attend a paid training session.
- Available for current or future elections.

**If you are interested, please call 350-2700 or 918-2700.**

**If you would like to represent Democratic Poll Workers, ask for Diane or e-mail her at [Demworkers@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:Demworkers@lakecountyohio.org).**

**If you would like to represent Republican Poll Workers, ask for Jennifer or e-mail her at [Repworkers@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:Repworkers@lakecountyohio.org)**

## **Common Poll Worker Questions**

### **Can a poll worker work in a county that they do not reside in?**

No. Poll workers must be qualified electors registered to vote in the county where they serve. They need not reside in the precinct where they serve as poll workers. R.C. 3501.22(A) provides that a board of elections shall “appoint for each election precinct four residents of the county in which the precinct is located, as judges. Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this section, all judges of election shall be qualified electors.” (As of 5/08/07)

### **What if I do not vote in a Primary and do not want to be affiliated with any particular party, but would like to be a Poll Worker?**

On Election Day the law requires equal representation of both political parties (Democrats and Republicans). Therefore, if you have no party designation, you would need to state what party you want to **represent** on Election Day.

**Can I work the precinct I live in?**

We make every effort to place you where you prefer. When that is not possible, we will contact you to work another polling location and you have the option to accept or deny the assignment. We try to keep you as close to your home precinct as possible.

**What hours can I expect to work on Election Day?**

Poll workers are required to arrive at their designated polling location no later than 6 a.m. Polls close at 7:30 p.m. You must remain until all paper work is complete. All poll workers leave at the same time.

**Can I leave the polling location on Election Day?**

No. You can not leave the polling location. We advise you to bring food and beverage for the day. Be sure you have someone to care for your animals on Election Day.

**What if I did not vote before Election Day? Can I leave to go vote?**

No. You can not leave the polling location. Therefore, we advise you to vote absentee before Election Day.

**Am I required to work the whole day, or can I split the day with another person?**

No. Each poll worker is to work the whole day. There are no half days.

**What if I get sick some time through the day when I am working the polls?**

If you are feeling ill and need to leave, you must contact the Board of Elections.

**Can my family or a friend come to have lunch with me or visit me on Election Day?**

Only those coming to vote at your precinct, poll workers and Board of Election officials are to be in the area of voting.

**Do I have a designated lunch time?**

You are allowed a ½ hour lunch. We advise that you do not eat at the table where election supplies are. We prefer you take a break when the voting is slow if possible.

**I received a notice to attend a training session, but have not been placed at a polling location. What does this mean?**

All workers must attend a training session to be eligible to work the polls. If you have not received an assignment yet, you still need to attend the training. When we have an opening in an area you will work, we will contact you. It may be closer to the election.

**When will I know where I am working if I only received a training session notice?**

You may be placed as late as election morning. As workers call off due to emergencies, we replace them as we are notified. Those that are willing to go anywhere, at any time are invaluable to us.

**I have been scheduled to work and also to come to a training session. How long is this training session and what if I can not attend the one you assign me?**

Training sessions generally are about 2 hours long. You must attend a training session before each election to be eligible to work on Election Day. If you can not attend the designated training session, you must call and reschedule your training.

**I have worked the polls for many years. Do I still have to come to a training session?**

Yes. Everyone must attend a training session before each election in Lake County. There are law changes and procedural changes happening all the time. With approval, you may attend more than one training session.

**May convicted felons serve as poll workers?**

No convicted felon (who has not been pardoned or who has not had his or her record expunged or sealed) may be a poll worker in Ohio. Poll workers are also “an office of honor, trust, or profit” under R.C. 2961.01. Moreover, under R.C. 3501.31, each poll worker takes an oath that he or she is not a convicted felon. If a poll worker is a convicted felon who has not had the conviction removed as stated above, then this person has violated Ohio law and the poll worker’s oath. The board should probably consult with the prosecutor to determine whether this person has a felony record, and if so, so that the prosecutor may determine whether or not prosecution is warranted. (As of Oct. 4, 2007)

**Do I get paid to come to a training session?**

Yes, you receive \$20.00.

**What is the pay for Election Day?**

A **Presiding Judge** receives \$127.91 (plus training) and a **Judge** will receive \$107.91 (plus training).

**Will I get paid on election night for working the polls?**

No. You will receive a check for election night and training pay after the election is certified by the Board. (Approximately 3-4 weeks after the Election).

**What if I have a friend who would like to work the polls?**

Please have them contact the Lake County Board of Elections. We always need good poll workers.

**How many poll workers does Lake County need?**

We have 215 precincts and need a minimum four workers per precinct. For larger elections, in even years, we use six workers per precinct.

***We would love to have you join the team and  
become a poll worker in Lake County.***